## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.    A method for processing specification waiver requests over a network connecting a waiver requestor to a plurality of responders relative to a specification having a plurality of elements, the method comprising:

> providing a waiver request database that is operable to store a plurality of waiver requests from the waiver requestor;
>
> receiving at the waiver request database a waiver request from the requestor, the request
>
> seeking a waiver of at least one of the specification elements from at least one of
>
> the plurality of responders;
>
> sending a notification from the waiver request database to the plurality of responders,
>
> seeking the requested waiver of the at least one specification element; and
>
> transmitting data from the waiver request database to the requestor, whereby the requestor
>
> may determine whether the waiver request has been approved by at least one of
>
> the plurality of responders.

2.    A method according to claim 1, and further comprising receiving in the waiver request database another waiver request from another waiver requestor.

3.    A method according to claim 2, wherein the waiver request database sends another notification seeking the other waiver request received from the other waiver requestor.

4.    A method according to claim 3, wherein the other notification is sent to another plurality of responders.

5.    A method according to claim 3, wherein the other notification is sent to the same plurality of responders as the original notification.

6.      A method according to claim 1, and further comprising receiving at least one response to the notification from the plurality of responders.

7.      A method according to claim 6, further comprising, if the at least one response is a request for additional information about the waiver request:

notifying the requestor about the request for additional information;

receiving additional information from the requestor; and

notifying the plurality of responders about the additional information.

8.      A method according to claim 7, further comprising receiving a second response from the plurality of responders.

9.      A method according to claim 6, wherein the at least one response is selected from the group consisting of: approving the waiver request; rejecting the waiver request; requesting to hold the waiver request; and requesting additional information about the waiver request.

10.     A method according to claim 1, further comprising generating a database entry corresponding to each waiver request in the waiver request database.

11.     A method according to claim 10, wherein the waiver request database is a distributed database comprising one or more database servers distributed over one or more networks.

12.     A method according to claim 1, wherein the sending the notification comprises an action selected from the group consisting of: sending an e-mail; sending an instant text message; and sending a prerecorded voice message.

13.     A method according to claim 1, wherein the sending of the notification is repeated

for a certain period of time or until a certain number of responses are received from the plurality

of responders.

14.     A method according to claim 1, wherein the waiver request is for the waiver of at

least one test corresponding to the at least one of the specification elements.


15.     A computer readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for

web-based processing of a waiver request, the one or more sequences of instructions are

configured for:

> providing a waiver request database that is operable to store a plurality of waiver requests
>> from the waiver requestor;
> receiving at the waiver request database a waiver request from the requestor, the request
>> seeking a waiver of at least one of the specification elements from at least one of
>> the plurality of responders;
> sending a notification from the waiver request database to the plurality of responders,
>> seeking the requested waiver of the at least one specification element; and
> transmitting data from the waiver request database to the requestor, whereby the requestor
>> may determine whether the waiver request has been approved by at least one of
>> the plurality of responders.

16.     A computer readable medium according to claim 15, wherein the one or more

sequences of instructions are further configured for:

> notifying the requestor about the request for additional information;
> receiving additional information from the requestor; and

notifying the plurality of responders about the additional information.

17.    A web-based process waiver request system comprising:

a waiver request database server;

at least one requestor computing system coupled to the waiver request database server;

at least one responder computing system coupled to the waiver request database server,

wherein the waiver request database server is configured to:

receive a waiver request from a requestor for at least one responder to waive at

least one step of a process;

notify the at least one responder about the waiver request to respond to the waiver

request; and

receive a first response from the at least one responder.

18.    A system according to claim 17, wherein the waiver request database server is

further configured, if the first response is a request for additional information about the waiver

request, to:

notify the requestor about the request for additional information;

receive additional information from the requestor;

notify the at least one responder about the additional information; and

receive a second response from the at least one responder.

19.    A system according to claim 18, wherein the first and second responses include an

action by the at least one responder, wherein the action is selected from the group consisting of:

approving the waiver request, rejecting the waiver request, requesting to hold the waiver request;

and requesting additional information about the waiver request.

20. A system according to claim 19, wherein the waiver request database server is a

distributed database server comprising one or more servers distributed over one or more

networks.